

**Print Mechanism Utilizing an Optical Imaging Sensor to Sense the Print Medium**

**ABSTRACT**

A print mechanism and method for sensing the print medium are disclosed. The print  
5 mechanism includes a print head assembly, actuator, and controller. The print head assembly  
includes a position detector and a marking device. The position detector includes an imaging  
device for forming an image of a portion of an edge of a print medium. The actuator moves  
the print head assembly relative to the print medium in a predetermined direction. The  
controller determines a location for the edge of the print medium from the formed image. In  
10 one embodiment, the controller also determines a brightness value for the print medium from  
the image and causes the amount of ink deposited by the marking device to be altered. In  
another embodiment, the controller determines if the print medium is correctly aligned in the  
print.